

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

[0001]. This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No.: 60/527,789 60/434,088, entitled Lossless Image Data Hiding, by inventors Yun-Qing Shi and Guorong Xuan, filed December 17, 2002, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.